

# Sing for me, your sweet, sweet song

a mini-collection



Alicia Hayden



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“Dotterel” was first published in the British Trust for Ornithology’s  
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For Faye, Chris, and all of BTO Youth.

Thank you.



## Sing for me

### (The Robin)

Sing for me, your sweet, sweet song,

Pastel twists in raindrops bloom,

A dance between major and minor,

A softness seldom shown.

Sing for me, your lovesick ballad,

A broken chord – a tune,

My whispers whirl – a gentle curl

Of golden notes, set in blue.







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## The great tit's song

It's like a tiny see-saw ridden by pixies.

The sound, backwards and forwards,

A rocking rhythm – frantic up and down.

'Teach-er, teach-er, teach-er'.

A yellow sound bathing a slate sky;

But he will hear the shades of indigo and ultraviolet

Which fall deaf to our blind ears.



## Blackbird

It is his song we know the best.

A looping twirl, a ballerina pirouetting on a blank stage.

Wrapping around chimney stacks

And curling into the city smog,

His call a lightening dart,

A beacon through the sleep haze,

Which cries:

Come! I am awake! I have survived the night.



## A New Jazz Musician: Introducing... Song thrush

Jazz musicians teeter with improvisation; a new note here, a wrong chord there,

Experimentation grows the mind and fills the soul with a new kind of joy.

But if you really want to hear jazz (the good stuff),

It's no good just popping down to Soho or downtown Manhattan,  
You've got to get out there.

Into the wilderness, where the twigs tug at your clothes

And you drink in fresh air like cocktails.

Drunk with oxygen, you'll find the new jazz master,

Speckled waistcoat glimmering in the fading light

As he tips back his throat and sings.



## Robin

We always see robins as these cheerful birds – the *Joyeux Noel* on Christmas cards,

The quintessential gardener's friend, the white-rabbit-esque adventure partner.

They seem so quaint and cheerful,

But what if they're absolutely furious?

Notoriously the most territorial bird in the garden,

I don't find this concept too hard to believe;

What we hear as melodic notes, a pleasant backdrop to our daily chores,

Is actually a string of profanities strung together on disjointed chords.



## Dotterel

### From Into the Red

Dot, dot, dot, dotterel.

Do you dash? Cocoa dots, marmalade cuff.

Dot, dot, dot, dotterel.

Can you dance? Leaves fold – hide, hide.

Dot, dot, dot, dotterel.

Disappearing – a dash,  
dashing off the page.







## About the Author

Alicia Hayden is an award-winning wildlife artist, filmmaker, writer, animator, and photographer from North Yorkshire, now based in Bristol.



She won the 'Human Impact' category in David Shepherd Wildlife Artist of the Year 2021 for her piece 'When the Whale Sang', and was awarded the inaugural Ingrid Beazley Award. Alicia hopes that by showcasing the beauty of the natural world, she will encourage more people to protect it.

'Sing for me, your sweet, sweet song' is the sixth instalment in Alicia's series of free mini-collections exploring the beauty and mystery of our local spaces.

Her first poetry book ['Rain before Rainbows'](#) came out in 2020, and she is currently working on her second.

If you enjoyed 'Sing for me, your sweet, sweet song', please consider supporting Alicia through [Ko-Fi!](#)



## Other works

### Mini-collection series

Tales from the Forgotten Wood (August 2021)

Pastel dreams in Golden Skies (December 2021)

The Skylark splits the Sky (January 2022)

Every Dune is a Mountain (June 2022)

And in this Starlit Sea (July 2022)

### Poetry books

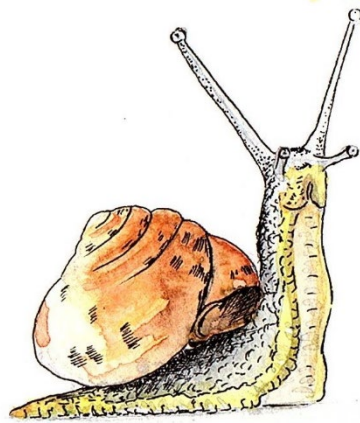
Rain before Rainbows (December 2020)

### Collections and Anthologies

Connections with Nature: 50 moments of meeting the wild  
(October 2021)

Into the Red (October 2022)

And through the Darkness, I see (December 2022)



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